

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

May 2014

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker for the program will be Christopher Everette Cenac, M.D., author of the book *Livestock Brands & Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History*. An orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Cenac is a native and current resident of Houma, LA. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. **Respectfully we must insist that you please call by noon on Wednesday, May 14, 2014,** to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



The above picture comes from *Along the Gulf*, 1894.

Villa Quisisana

By
Eddie Coleman

Herman Ludwig von Gohren was born in 1844 in Strausburg, Germany. Emigrating from Saxony to the United States aboard the *S. S. Hanover* at age sixteen, he subsequently became a medical doctor in New Orleans and married Catherine Beret, who was from France, probably from Alsace-Lorraine.

Although his medical practice was in New Orleans,

Dr. von Gohren and his family spent summers in Bay St. Louis as did many other residents of the Crescent City. Enjoying the restful atmosphere in the Bay, he ultimately bought a house and moved his family here permanently in the mid-to late-1800s. He found the air clean and fresh and the countryside beautiful. In addition he discovered that the waters of the Bay were safe for bathing and contained minerals with healing qualities. Furthermore, the neighborhood abounded with a plentiful supply of homegrown vegetables and fruits, the waters held abundant fresh seafood, and local butcher shops provided pork,

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Ellis Cuevas, PublisherPublished monthly by the
**HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY****2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Charles Gray, Executive Director
John Gibson, President
Tina Richardson, First Vice President
Sally Lindsley, Second Vice President
Pat Fuchs, Treasurer
Betty Krieger, Secretary
Ellis Cuevas, Publicity
Jackie Allain, Historian
Jerry Zimmerman, Board Member at Large**MAILING ADDRESS:**P. O. Box 3356
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**

108 Cue Street

Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090

Email address:**hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net****Website:**www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com
Marianne Plum, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”

beef, and lamb. Thus, the area was ideal for him to establish a health resort for “invalids, convalescents, and other people who may desire a change of air” (*Louisiana’s Loss, Mississippi’s Gain*).

In the book *Along the Gulf* (1894), Charles Lawrence Dyer gives the following description of Dr. von Gohren and his health resort:

“It was on the third day that our party took a trip out to Dr. von Gohren’s villa which had been strongly recommended to us as a beautiful health resort. Dr. L. H. von Gohren evidently thought that the climate and surroundings of Bay St. Louis were the finest to be found anywhere in the whole Southern Country for invalids when he established his health resort here. This beautiful estate, which the doctor has named ‘Villa Quisiana,’

is situated on the front street a short pleasant drive or walk from the station near the entrance of the Bay. There are several large, well built, well ventilated and finely furnished houses on the grounds, spacious lawns, shade trees, tennis and croquet courts and in short everything to make life on the coast worth the living. The doctor, a genial gentleman in the prime of life, keeps his resort open all the year round for the reception of guests, invalids, convalescents and other people who may desire a change of air or wish to sojourn on the Gulf Coast for their recreation [They] will find here every thing arranged for their comfort. Physicians, who may recommend the Villa Quisiana to their patients and who desire to have the treatment continued which was begun under their care, will find full attention given to such cases



One of the buildings on the Villa Quisiana compound which later became the home of R. R. Perkins



The R. R. Perkins home at 630 North Beach Boulevard

and weekly reports will be forwarded to them if desired. At the Villa are separate apartments for such patients and their meals will be prepared according to directions given by the physician. This establishment also has facilities for Hydro and Electro Therapeutic treatment in connection with massage, Swedish movements, as well as the dietetic treatment, anti-fat and water cure and other Mechano-Therapeutic healing methods, etc. There are [sic] also connected with the Villa a system of baths of almost every description, medicated and mineral water baths, electric and shower baths, etc., making altogether the most perfectly equipped institution of this kind in the State.”

Dr. von Gohren was quite civic-minded and served the City of Bay St. Louis as City Councilman in the late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries. In fact, his name can be found on the east face of the cornerstone of the old City Hall on Second

Street. Old *Sea Coast Echo* clippings contain numerous stories of social events hosted by the von Gohrens as well as listings of prominent visitors to the health resort. Dr. von Gohren died in 1906 and is buried in Cedar Rest Cemetery. His wife followed him in 1908.

Villa Quisiana stood at

630 North Beach Boulevard and after the death of Dr. von Gohren continued to serve the citizens of Bay Saint Louis. Because of the destruction of St. Joseph's Academy in the 1907 fire, the sisters of St. Joseph “rented the old von Gohren Point Comfort home...and continued the school session without interruption” (*Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*).

The von Gohren home was later sold to Mr. R. R. Perkins and stood at his 630 North Beach Boulevard address until it was removed to make way for the new U. S. 90 bridge in the early 1950's.

SOURCES:

Dwyer, Charles Lawrence. *Along the Gulf*. (No city and no publisher given), 1894.

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Pub. Co., 1999.



This is a postcard of St. Roch's Spring in Bay St. Louis.

Is it possible that the spring was a part of or on the grounds of Villa Quisiana? The only evidence and proof we have been able to find that the spring existed are a couple of postcards and a reference or two in a turn-of-century ad in the *Times-Picayune*. Can anyone help with more information?

PROHIBITION AND HANCOCK COUNTY

By
Eddie Coleman

Mississippi proclaimed itself a "dry" state in 1908-1909 and was the first state to ratify the Eighteenth Amendment. Seizing the opportunity to fulfill a need, residents along the Gulf Coast used their fishing vessels to smuggle the "demon rum" into the state. Other enterprising folks began making moonshine to turn a buck.

Rumrunners began smuggling the illegal liquor from islands in the Caribbean especially from Cuba. Many of them met ships bearing European alcohol off the barrier islands and brought in the bounty.

Between 1908 and the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, "thirsty" Hancock County residents crossed the Pearl River at Gainesville to visit the numerous "floating bar rooms" on the Louisiana side especially the *Blue Goose*. Often county residents drank their fill and returned with saddlebags full of the drink.

Other residents of the area made "shopping" trips to New Orleans to imbibe and "make groceries" of alcoholic beverages for personal use and for entertaining.

In his book, *The Mississippi Gulf Coast*, Charles Sullivan gives the following account of moonshine in the Kiln during the time of national Prohibition:

"Probably the best-known Mississippi town in the

North during the Roaring Twenties was the Hancock County village of Kiln, from which the Chicago-based Capone Gang secured vast quantities of 'Kiln Lightning.' From time to time 'revenooers' discovered whole rail cars loaded with just enough pine lumber to conceal hundreds of cases of liquor or truckloads of 'corn squeezings' nesting under egg cartons. In just one 1923 raid near Kiln, federal agents captured four cookers, one of them 'a 300 gallon fellow—looking like the grandfather of all the stills.'"

Even though "some spectacular hauls" were made in the area by federal officials, the greater share of the illegal liquor reached its intended destination.

SOURCES:

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Pub. Co., 1999.

Sullivan, Charles L. & Powell, Murella Hebert. *The Mississippi Gulf Coast: Portrait of a People*. Sun Valley, CA: American Historical Press, 1999.

Thigpen, S. G. *Highway to Glory Land*. Kingsport, TN: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1965

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Nancy Horton
Jackson, MS

Carol & Frank Spencer
Jackson, MS

Terri Travirca
Greenbrae, CA

BOOKS FOR SALE AT LOBRANO HOUSE

Bay Saint Louis: Celebrating the First 300 Years
By the HCHS (\$15.00)

A nostalgic keepsake of the city's history including descriptions and pictures of many of the historic buildings and houses especially those along Beach Boulevard prior to Katrina

*Blueberry Peaches,
Red Robin Pie*

By Stella LaViolette
and Paul Estronza La Violette (\$25.00)
An annotated cookbook of Gulf Coast recipes

*Early Hancock County: A Few of Her People and
Some of Their Stories*
By Russell B. Guerin (\$29.95)

*Gulf Coast Album
A Journey in Historic Photographs 1899-2011
From New Orleans across the Mississippi Gulf
Coast to Mobile*
By Charles Sullivan (\$40.00)

Holly
By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
An intriguing anthology of tales of a tomcat living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

One Dog, Two Dogs, Three Dogs, Four...
By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
Twice told tales of several dogs living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

Scrapbook of Treasured Memories
By Connie Heitzmann and Betty Stechmann
(\$20.00)
A book of art, photography, and reminiscence of the Gulf Coast

Sink or Be Sunk
By Paul La Violette (\$30.00)
A recounting of the naval battle in the Mississippi Sound preceding the Battle of New Orleans in 1812

The Way to Stone Hill
By Paul LaViolette (\$20.00)
Stories of relocating after fleeing a vicious storm

*West Side Stories
Before, During, and After on Mississippi's
West Coast*
Photographs and Commentary by
Vicki Niolet and Betty Stechmann (\$28.00)
A Pictorial of our homes and communities in Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Lakeshore, and Clermont Harbor

A White Egret in the Shallows
By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
Stories revealing the ambiance and wonder of coastal living

**PLEASE ADD \$3.00 SHIPPING FOR THE
FIRST BOOK (\$1.50 EACH ADDITIONAL
BOOK) ON MAIL ORDERS.**

AD PRICES

Ads run for one year

1/8 page (business card size)—\$100
 1/4 page—\$150
 1/2 page—\$200
 1 page—\$275

Marsha Buras
 985-285-4690
mbras24@yahoo.com



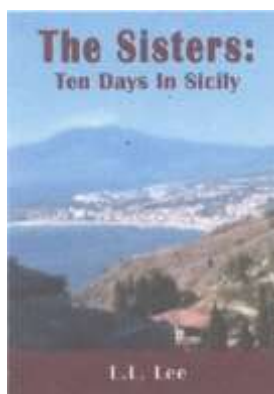
Sue Layel
 228-224-2559
layels@aol.com

Search homes instantly at



www.mississippi.coastsue.com

Century 21 of Diamondhead



The Sisters: Ten Days in Sicily
 (Sisters Series)
 By L.L. Lee

A humorous, mystery novel set in Louisiana, post-Katrina Bay Saint Louis, and Sicily.

Available at Bay Books, Amazon.com, Kindle

Contact Lee3731@bellsouth.net or Amazon.com/author/lllee

Ford Realty Inc.

Residential, Timberland, Ranches, Commercial

1004 Memorial Blvd.
 P.O. Box 418
 Picayune, MS 39466

800.354.FORD(3673)
 Ofc. 601.798.6202
 Fax 601.799.0202



Martha Ford
 Broker-GRI/SFR

CALL MARTHA
 cell 601-590-2988
 home 601-798-0082
martyford@bellsouth.net

www.fordrity.com

FAMILY PORTRAITS

BR Studios and Designs
 134 Aiken Road
 Waveland, MS 39576
brstuhawkins.com
 (228) 671-9065

The next time the family gathers, plan a portrait



"BR is always so easy with my children. It is always a joyous, wonderful experience. She's like being with family. Her personality adds so much to the experience." — Gladys Bush, Kila, MS

Call (228) 671-9065 and schedule a family portrait with BR Hawkins

MICHAEL REEVES ARCHITECTS, PLLC

AIA, CSI CDT, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS 39520

PHONE: 228-493-2513

EMAIL: MREEVES.ARCHITECT@GMAIL.COM

NEW RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DESIGN
 RENOVATION OF RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENTAL, COMMERCIAL,
 MEDICAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS
 ADVOCATE FOR "NOT SO BIG" RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
 HISTORIC RENOVATION AND REMODELING
 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN - LEED, ENERGY STAR
 BUILDING INFORMATION MODEL (BIM) DESIGN
 3D BUILDING RENDERING AND WALK-THROUGHS
 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION
 225+ PROJECTS COMPLETED OVER 35 YEARS

Todd N. Thriffiley
 Attorney at Law

Phone: (228) 467-2400

For only \$100 per year,
your ad could appear here.

JOHN "CORKY" HADDEN
Financial Advisor

RAYMOND JAMES®

T 228.466.9888 837A Highway 90
T 888.465.9968 Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520
F 228.466.9978 corky.hadden@raymondjames.com
http://www.RaymondJames.com
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC



Jean Ann's
Fashion Express

Ladies Apparel—Jewelry—Giftware

"Best kept secret in
Old Town Bay St. Louis"

Featuring Collections by
Maurice Milleur Pewter, Victoria Lynn Swarovski Crystal,
Victoria Cross Vintage, Handcrafted metal by Deborah
DeGraw, Earth Dreams, Keren Hart, and much more!

Inside Maggie May's
126 Main St.
Old Town Bay St. Louis

Jean Ann Thriffiley
228-332-5326

Visit our website: Bay St. Louis Old Town Ms Gulf Coast—
Fashion Express

SUE ASHMAN
ABR, CRS, GRI, SRS
BROKER

418 Highway 90
Waveland, MS 39576



Office: (228) 467-5454
Fax: (228) 466-4561

Cell: (228) 216-7864
Email: sueashman@aol.com

www.Ashman-Mollere.com

SIXTH EDITION—(EDITIONS 1-5 SOLD OUT)



BUY: AL SAUCIER.COM VENDORS
BAY BOOKS: 228-463-2688

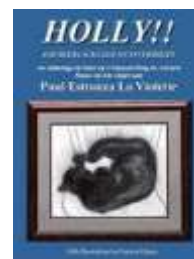
KILN

MOONSHINE: Secret Nationwide Delivery Map

READ! ESCAPE! ENJOY!
SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



\$25.00



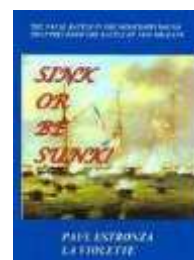
\$20.00



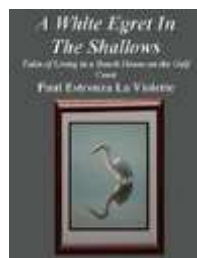
\$20.00



\$20.00



\$30.00



\$20.00

BOOKS BY
PAUL LAVIOLETTE AVAIL-
ABLE AT THE HANCOCK
COUNTY HISTORICAL



Steve B. Treutel, CFM

Senior Financial Advisor

Mississippi Gulf Coast
(228) 385-6307

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.
AD-06-12-0048 ARSOT2V1-10-11 Code 453007PM-0612



305 Main

www.vrbo.com (ID #313124 & 400259)

228-466-4793

ZACH BUTTERWORTH

HESSE & BUTTERWORTH, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

5401-B INDIAN HILL BLVD.
DIAMONDHEAD, MS 39525

PH. (228) 255-7500
FAX (228) 255-9009

Licensed in LA & MS



Serving Bay St. Louis, Waveland & Pass Christian Area
Sales, Rentals, Vacation Rentals, Full Property Management

MANIERI REAL ESTATE, LLC

501 C Main St., Bay St. Louis, MS

Joe Manieri/Broker

manierij@bellsouth.net

228-216-5750, FAX: 228-466-4794

Bay St Louis:
412 Hwy 90
228-466-4498

Biloxi:
2505 Pass Rd
228-385-1177

Diamondhead:
5400 Indian Hill
228-467-2272



SOUTH GROUP
INSURANCE SERVICES
GULF COAST

• We offer Personal, Business, Life
and Health Insurance

• We help our clients save
money and get more value.

• We are Trusted Choice
and have been awarded the
Best Practices Designation.

For more information, please
visit our website:

www.southgroupgulfcoast.com
central fax: 888-415-8922



Angela S. Treutel, CPA
President
South Group Insurance
- Gulf Coast



John E. Harris, GRI
REALTOR®



Cell (228) 493-4111 Fax (228) 466-0876
Toll Free (800) 892-1602

jharris@GardnerRealtors.com

1021 Highway 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520-1524



Home Grown • Locally Owned • Internationally Known



Charles B. Benvenuti

Certified Public Accountant

Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA, PA

831 Highway 90

P.O. Box 2639

Bay St. Louis, MS

39521-2639

228-467-1402

Fax 228-467-2594

E-mail: Chuck@Benvenuttipa.com

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION**

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39521

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIP _____]

PHONE (____) _____

Email address _____

ANNUAL DUES: HOUSEHOLD—\$25; BUSINESS—\$100 \$ _____